**Disciples Making Disciples - Forming Missional Leaders - Multiplying Missional Communities**

# THE CONSTITUTION

*and*

# CANONS

*of*

# THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN ANGLICANS

***The Anglican Church in North America***

***Effective: October 22, 2022***

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## *Definition of Certain Terms*

As used in the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese various terms are defined as follows:

***Bishop*** The "Bishop" is the incumbent diocesan Bishop of the Diocese of Western Anglicans of the Anglican Church in North America.

***Board of Directors*** The "Board of Directors" is the board of directors of The Diocese of Western Anglicans, a California Religious Nonprofit Corporation. The Executive Committee of the Synod and the Board of Directors are one and the same. The term "Board of Directors" is used in these Canons when the context involves the discharge of legal duties and responsibilities; otherwise, the term "Executive Committee" appears in recognition that it is the executive arm of the Synod.

***Canon*** The terms "canon" or "canons" or "Diocesan Canon" or "Diocesan Canons" mean a canon or the canons of this Diocese unless reference to a canon or the canons of the Church is expressly stated.

***Church*** The "Church" is the Anglican Church in North America.

***Clergy*** The term "clergy" includes priests and deacons.

***Church Plant**** A Church Plant is a Christ-centered community likely led by a Presbyter called by God to plant a new church. A Church Plant is committed to growth in the Spirit and membership growth through conversion, progressing steadily through developmental stages of reproductive community life. Due to resource levels, a Church Plant is likely initiated by the Deanery or a Resource Church. A Church Plant generally will have a minimum Average Sunday Attendance of 25 members.

***Congregation**** A Congregation, likely led by a Presbyter, is understood to have developed a system of worship, disciple-making and mission that fosters an environment for, and momentum toward, growth and reproduction. It may be networked with other Congregations or it may stand on its own. Healthy development of a Congregation is usually dependent upon a minimum Average Sunday Attendance of 75 and will be self-funding, self-governing and self-propagating. As growth is experienced, a Congregation will sponsor new Missional Communities and Congregations that may be released as new Church Plants.

***Constitution*** The "Constitution" is the constitution of this Diocese.

***Diocesan Committees and Task Groups*** A "Diocesan Committee" is a committee established by the Executive Committee and intended for continuing existence. A "Diocesan Task Group" is a task group established by the Executive Committee or the Bishop for a transitory need.

***Diocesan Canon*** "Diocesan Canon" or "canon" means a canon of this Diocese unless reference to a canon of the Church is expressly stated.

***Corporation*** The "Corporation" is The Diocese of Western Anglicans, a California Religious Nonprofit Corporation.

***Dean*** A "Dean" is a servant who comes alongside clergy and congregations pastorally, assisting the bishop in extending the vision of the diocese regionally.

***Deanery*** A "Deanery" is a part of a diocese, generally defined geographically, which is overseen by a dean under the supervision of the bishop, and is designed to address regional concerns of parishes and expand the work of the diocese in each region.

***Delegate*** A "Delegate" is a clergy or lay member of the Synod.

***Diocese*** The "Diocese" is the Diocese of Western Anglicans of the Anglican Church in North America.

***Director*** A "Director" is a member of the board of directors of the Corporation. A Director is synonymous with a member of the Executive Committee.

***Executive Committee*** The "Executive Committee" of the Synod and the "Board of Directors" of The Diocese of Western Anglicans, a California Religious Nonprofit Corporation, are one and the same. The term "Board of Directors" is used in these Canons when the context involves the discharge of legal duties and responsibilities; otherwise, the term "Executive Committee" appears in recognition that it is the executive arm of the Synod. The "Executive Committee" acts in its capacity as "a committee of counsel to the Bishop," as required by the canons of the Church.

***Fundamental Declarations*** The "Fundamental Declarations" are the Fundamental Declarations of the Province set forth in Article I of the Constitution of the Church.

***Lay Missioner*** A Lay Missioner is usually a bi-vocational lay leader with gifts of gathering and catalyzing, pastoring and teaching, and leading and managing other lay members who are called to start a new missional community, and under certain conditions, a church plant or congregation. A Lay Missioner begins by gathering people into a process of missional discipleship formation so that disciples and Christ-centered missional communities are birthed, formed and multiplied to the glory of God. Lay Missioners are licensed by the bishop to serve as 'pastor-teachers' according to their gifting, to gather the members of the body of Christ to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus." (*Ref Document*: Lay Missioner Ministry Manual, DWA Website under Resources)

***Member Congregation*** A "Member Congregation" is a founding congregation listed in Canon 1, Section 1, or is a congregation elected to membership in this Diocese pursuant to the canons.

***Members*** The "Members" of this Diocese are the Member Congregations *and the Diocese approved Missional Startups, Church Plants, Missional Communities, and Resource Churches.*

***Ministry Development Process*** The "Ministry Development Process" is the process established by the Diocese to be followed by postulants for ordination in the Diocese and ministers seeking to be received into the Diocese.

***Missional Community**** A Missional Community is a Christ-centered community of 20-40 adults, likely led by a Lay Missioner, or mission-driven lay leader that grows in the Spirit through worship, disciple-making and mission, so that the Missional Community's members are impacting the world in visible and practical ways. Missional Communities will likely form from a structured Church Plant, Congregation or Resource Church and, in most cases, will continue to extend the reach of their sponsoring/birthing church. A Missional Community is represented at Synod through its sponsoring church, which should ensure that missional community members are included within the members eligible for election as a voting representative in the Synod delegation

***Mission Startup**** A Mission Startup is a new Christ-centered community likely led by a lay leader or Lay Missioner with a vision for growth that leads them to corporate worship, disciple-making and mission. A Mission Startup is usually organically a part of a larger congregation or local church, but may be birthed through Kingdom-driven efforts by the Deanery or the Diocese. The trajectory for planning and development is toward a self-funding, self-governing and self-reproducing Christian community.

***Officers*** The "officers" of the Diocese are the Chief Executive Officer and Co-Chairman, the President and Co-Chairman, the Chancellor, the Registrar, the Secretary and the Treasurer, and may include Vice Presidents, Assistant Vice Presidents and Assistant Registrars, Assistant Secretaries and Assistant Treasurers.

***Presbyter*** The terms "presbyter" and "priest" are synonymous.

***Presiding Officer*** The "Presiding Officer" of the Synod is the Bishop or in his absence the President, or in his or her absence such person as the Bishop shall appoint.

***Province*** The "Province" is the Anglican Church in North America.

***Resource Church**** A Resource Church, led by a Presbyter, operates with multiple Congregations and worship services (onsite and/or off-site) and/or Missional Communities to impact the wider culture with the gospel. A Resource Church is self-funding, self-governing and self-propagating with a minimum Average Sunday Attendance of 200+ and accepts the responsibility to contribute generously in time, people and funding to the development of new Missional Startups and Church Plants in the Deanery and the Diocese.

***Synod*** The Synod is the governing body of the Diocese. It is composed of the [active] clergy of the Diocese and the elected lay representatives (delegates) of the Members [Congregations] of the Diocese, as determined by canon.

***NOTE**: A separate application for each congregation or local church type seeking new membership into the Diocese of Western Anglicans are available and are posted on the DWA website under Resources as is the paper "**What is a Congregation**?"

# THE CONSTITUTION

## *of*

# THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN ANGLICANS

### *Preamble*

**IN THE NAME OF GOD**, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen. We are Anglicans in the Western United States united by our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and the trustworthiness of the Holy Scriptures, and we are members of The Anglican Church in North America. We believe and confess Jesus Christ to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no one comes to the Father but by Him. We subscribe without reservation to the Fundamental Declarations in the Constitution of the Church. Our purpose is to be a diocese within the Church and to carry out our diocesan ministry consistent with the constitution and canons of the Church.

## Article One

### *Certain Governing Principles*

We affirm certain governing principles of our life as a part of the Body of Christ, including:

***The Historic Godly Episcopate*** We confess the Godly historic episcopate as an inherent part of the apostolic faith and practice, and therefore as integral to the fullness and unity of the Body of Christ.

***The Bishop Evangelist*** From the beginning our vision is of a diocese, minimal in structure, whose Bishop would concentrate on four main things: upholding the authority of the Holy Scriptures; ministering to the clergy, doing the work of an evangelist, and supporting and overseeing the planting of churches.

***The Congregation as the Fundamental Agency of Mission*** We affirm the local congregations, not the diocese, as the fundamental agencies of the mission of the Church.

***Subsidiarity*** Wisely has the Church chosen the governance principle of subsidiarity; namely, that whatever can wisely be left to the dioceses should be left to the dioceses, and whatever the dioceses can wisely leave to the local congregations should be left to the local congregations. This Diocese exists to serve and to coordinate the work of its Member Congregations; it must never be a usurper of their Godly mission and work.

***The Mission and Work of the Diocese*** The mission of this Diocese is to support the Member Congregations in extending the Kingdom of God by so presenting Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit that people will come to put their trust in God through Him, know Him as Savior, and serve Him as Lord in the fellowship of the Church. A principal work of the Diocese is to plant new congregations, to encourage and assist the Member Congregations in planting new congregations, and to strengthen newly planted congregations to become self-sustaining Member Congregations.

***Lay Participation*** The effective ministry of the Diocese is the responsibility of the laity no less than it is the responsibility of the Bishop and clergy. The laity shall participate in the governance of the Diocese on an equal basis with the ordained ministers.

***A Servant Community*** We pray the Holy Spirit to lead us into fullness as a servant community of mutual respect, support and cooperation, that we may fulfill all righteousness in our mission, our work, and our communal life together as disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. In these things we commit ourselves and our ministries to upholding the Sanctity of Life, the Sanctity of Christian Marriage, and the Gift of Family, for in these things are they blessed who fear the Lord.

***The Sanctity of Life*** God, and not man, is the creator of human life. The unjustified taking of life is sinful; therefore, we are called to promote and respect the sanctity of every human life from conception until natural death. Exodus 20:13

***The Sanctity of Marriage and Single Life*** We affirm our Lord's teaching that Holy Matrimony, commonly called a Sacrament (Article 25 and ACNA Catechism 124-125), is a lifelong covenant between one man and one woman, binding both to self-giving love and exclusive fidelity. Jesus Christ teaches that God is the author of marriage from the beginning of time. "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27; cf. Matthew 19:4-6). God's design for marriage has always involved one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24). Marriage is established by God for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord; for mutual joy, and for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; to maintain purity, so that husbands and wives, with all the household of God, might serve as holy and undefiled members of the Body of Christ; and for the upbuilding of Christ's kingdom in family, church, and society, to the praise of his holy Name.

***The Importance of Family*** We affirm the family to be one of the greatest blessings God gives us, providing acceptance, sustenance, and nurture and admonition, from the Lord. We are called to promote and protect healthy family life, and to embrace those who are without family in the fellowship of the church. Psalms 127, 128; James 1:27

We are determined with God's help to hold and maintain, as the Anglican Way has received them, the doctrine, discipline and worship of Christ and to transmit the same, unimpaired, to our posterity.

# Article Two

## *Membership in the Diocese*

The Member Congregations of this Diocese are its founding members and those Anglican Congregations in the Western United States that have been elected to membership. The founding members are:

All Saints' Anglican Church, Long Beach, California
Christ the King Anglican Church, San Diego, California
Anglican Church of the Resurrection, San Marcos, California
Anglican Church of the Spirit, Hemet, California
Christ Church Anglican, Butte, Montana
Christ Church, Fallbrook, California
Christ Church Anglican, Phoenix, Arizona
Christ's Church Anglican, Highland, California
Christ the King Anglican, Spokane, Washington
Christ Our Savior Anglican Church, Harbor City, California
Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church, Yuma, Arizona
Flagstaff Anglican Fellowship, Flagstaff, Arizona
Grace Anglican Church, Boise, Idaho
Holy Trinity Anglican Church, San Diego, California
Little Church in the Valley, Reno, Nevada
St. David's Anglican Church, North Hollywood, California
St. James Anglican Church, Newport Beach, California
St. Luke's Anglican Church, La Crescenta, California
St. Stephen's Anglican Church, Tustin, California
The Gathering, Brea, California
Trinity Anglican Church, Kennewick, Washington

Current Mission Startups, Church Plants, Missional Communities, Congregations and Resource Churches are:

All Saints Anglican Church, Long Beach, CA
Anglican Church of the Epiphany, La Mirada, CA
Anglican Church of the Holy Spirit, Prescott Valley, AZ
Anglican Church of the Resurrection, San Marcos, CA
Branches of the Cross Anglican Church, Vista, CA
Christ Church Anglican, Butte, MT
Christ Church Anglican, Phoenix, AZ
Christ Church, Fallbrook, Fallbrook, CA
Christ Our Savior Anglican Church, Torrance, CA

Christ the King Anglican Church, San Diego,
Christ the King Anglican, Spokane, WA
Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church, Yuma, AZ
Christ's Church, Yucaipa CA
Church of the Incarnation, Billings, MT
Community of St. Columba, Missoula, MT
Flagstaff Anglican Fellowship, Flagstaff, AZ
Good Shepherd Anglican, Mesa AZ
Grace Anglican Church, Sheridan, WY
Grace Anglican Church of Boise, Boise, ID
Grace Anglican Church, Oceanside, CA
Holy Spirit Anglican Church, San Diego, CA
Holy Trinity Anglican Church, San Diego, CA
Little Church in the Valley, Reno, NV
Living Faith Anglican Church, Tempe, AZ
St. David's Anglican Church, Burbank, CA
St. James Anglican Church, Newport Beach, CA
St. Luke's Anglican Church, La Crescenta, CA
St. Michael's in the City, La Verne, CA
St. Paul's City Church, Murrieta, CA
St. Stephen's Anglican Church, Tustin, CA
United Christ Church of India, Phoenix, AZ

Additional congregations may be added as provided by Diocesan Canon. A Member Congregation may withdraw or be removed from membership as provided by Diocesan Canon.

### *Creation of Geographical Regions within the Diocese*

The Bishop, with approval of the Executive Committee, is free to identify and establish geographical regions within the Diocese, under the guidance and direction of a Dean appointed by the Bishop, consisting of local Member Mission Startups, Church Plants, Missional Communities, Congregations and Resource Churches. These regions shall focus on: developing greater opportunities for localized ministries, collaborating on regional missional activities, stimulating growth within the region through church planting, and intensifying ministry development all for the intended purpose of growing and expanding the Kingdom of God.

### *Planting New Congregations*

With the leadership and consent of the Bishop, the Diocese and its Member Congregations, clergy and laity should plant new congregations. The Diocese assigns the appropriate deanery to ensure spiritual covering and practical assistance to new plants consistent with its own and the Diocese's

missional strategies until self-sustaining. A new Church Plant is self-sustaining when it meets the criteria for sustainability as determined by the Bishop and Executive Committee.

## Article Three

### *Governance*

There shall be a Synod as the governing body of the Diocese. Each Member Congregation shall be represented in the Synod as provided by Diocesan Canon. The Synod shall have an Executive Committee, as provided by Diocesan Canon, to develop and execute its program.

## Article Four

### *Ownership of Property*

All real and personal property owned by a Member Congregation now and in the future is and shall be solely and exclusively owned by that Member Congregation and shall not be subject to any trust interest in favor of this Diocese or any other claim of ownership arising out of the Constitution or Canons of this Diocese or otherwise.

## Article Five

### *The Trial Court*

There shall be an ecclesiastical trial court in this Diocese for the trial of any presbyter or deacon subject to its jurisdiction. The establishment of such court and the mode of conducting trials therein shall be provided by Diocesan Canon.

## Article Six

### *Approval and Amendment*

This Constitution shall be approved by the Synod by two-thirds (2/3) of the Delegates present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose. This Constitution may be amended by the Synod by two-thirds (2/3) of the Delegates present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose. Any amendment to the Constitution shall not become effective within less than ninety days following its adoption.

In case of any conflict of this Diocesan Constitution with the Constitution or Canons of the Church the later shall take precedence.

# THE CANONS

## *of*

# THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN ANGLICANS

## Title I

## *Governance*

## Canon 1

### *Concerning Membership*

**Section 1.01 Membership*** Additional Member Congregations may be added to this Diocese upon the Bishop's approval and a two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval by the Executive Committee. To qualify for membership a congregation or church plant must hold to the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic faith wherein Holy Scriptures contain all doctrine required as necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ alone and the congregation or church plant must subscribe without reservation to the Fundamental Declarations of the Province contained in the Constitution of the Anglican Church in North America and to the Constitution and Canons and the Bylaws of this Diocese.

***NOTE**: A separate application for each congregation or local church type seeking new membership into the Diocese of Western Anglicans is available on the website: www.westernanglicans.org as is the white paper "**What is a Congregation**?".

Qualification for membership of congregations that are either independent or members of another diocese within the Province shall be attested to by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the congregation at a meeting properly called, noticed and conducted according to the governing instruments of the congregation and recorded in the minutes of the meeting. A congregation applying for membership must apply to the Bishop according to the Bylaws.

If the congregation or church plant is attached to another diocese of the Province, it may be received into this Diocese only with the consent of the executive leadership and the bishop of the diocese to which it is attached.

A Member Congregation may withdraw from membership in the Diocese at any time upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Member Congregation at a meeting so called, noticed and conducted and recorded in the minutes of the meeting. A Member Congregation may be removed from membership with or without cause upon the Bishop's recommendation and a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Committee.

Qualification for membership of a Church Plant shall be by application submitted to the Executive Committee, with the approval of the Bishop, on forms and in accordance with standards prescribed by the Executive Committee. The Bishop and Executive Committee may receive such a church plant fully into this Diocese within the assigned Deanery.

Once the Bishop and a Deanery asserts that a church plant has met the criteria for sustainability and is operating in a fully independent manner, the Church Plant can request status change as a Congregation with the approval of the Bishop and a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee.

**Section 1.02** ***Annual Meeting, Other Meetings*** The Annual Meeting of the Diocese shall occur on a Friday or a Saturday between August 1 and November 15 of each year. The Registrar shall provide the date and county for meetings of the Synod to each Member Congregation and Delegate, no later than 60 days before the date of the Annual Meeting. The Registrar shall provide the address and the start time of such meetings no later than 14 days prior to the noticed meeting date.

Other meetings of the Synod may be held upon notice by the Registrar. The Registrar shall provide the date and county of the other meetings in writing to each Member Congregation and Delegate, no later than sixty (60) days before the date of such meetings. The Registrar shall provide the address and the start time of such meetings no later than 14 days prior to the noticed meeting date.

# Canon 2

## *Concerning the Synod*

**Section 2.01** ***Synod*** Mission Startups, Church Plants, Congregations and Resource Churches that have been accepted into the Diocese of Western Anglicans by the Diocesan Executive Committee shall send clergy and lay representatives to the Annual Meeting and other meetings of the Synod. The representatives comprise the Synod and will meet not less than once per year as provided in Title I, Canon 1, Section 1.02.

**Section 2.02** ***Clergy Representatives*** Clergy representatives shall consist of all ordained clergy of this Diocese who have been actively engaged in ministry for at least eight hours of work each week for a Resource Church, Congregation, Church Plant, Mission Startup, a Deanery or the Diocese during the three months preceding the Annual Meeting.

**Section 2.03** ***Lay Representatives*** Ordinarily, a Lay Missioner will be elected by the Congregation or Resource Church, and a Church Planter will most often initiate work as an ordained person. However, when that is not possible, due to the fact that the Lay Missioner is not elected or the church planter is not ordained, a Missional Community or a Mission Startup led by a lay person with less than an Average Sunday Attendance of 25 members will be seated at the Synod and given voice and vote.

The lay representatives shall be elected by the vestries of the Mission Startups, Church Plants, Congregations and Resource Churches from among committed tithing members. The number of lay representatives that may be sent by a Mission Startup, Church Plant, Congregation or Resource Church to the Synod shall be based on its Average Sunday Attendance as of ninety (90) days before the Annual Meeting. Each representative elected shall serve in that capacity for all meetings of the Synod up to, but not including, the next regularly scheduled Synod Meeting. Mission Startups, Church Plants, Congregations and Resource Churches may elect alternate representatives among committed tithing members who may participate in the Synod as voting members when elected representatives are unavailable. Each Mission Startup, Church Plant, Congregation and Resource Church shall elect the number of lay representatives corresponding with the following:

For Mission Startups or Church Plants, Average Sunday Attendance of 1-25, one (1) lay representative may be elected.

For Mission Startups, Church Plants, Congregations or Resource Churches with Average Sunday Attendance above 25, they shall be given one (1) additional lay representative for each additional 25 Average Sunday Attendance (26-50 = 2; 51-75 = 3; 76-100 = 4, etc.).

**Section 2.04** ***Rights of Delegates*** Delegates to the Synod shall have the right to vote in the election of members of the Executive Committee, on other matters as provided in these Canons, on the disposition of all or substantially all of the Corporation's assets, on any election to dissolve the Corporation, and on any merger including its principal terms and any amendment of such terms.

**Section 2.05** ***Unicameral Voting*** Voting in the Synod shall always be unicameral, with both clergy and lay members voting on all matters to be voted upon.

**Section 2.06** ***Matters Submitted by the Executive Committee*** The Executive Committee may submit matters of important policy to the Synod for approval. The role of the Synod in such cases is limited to voting up or down on whether to affirm the Executive Committee's proposal or ratify an action taken. Matters not affirmed or ratified by the Synod are deemed returned to the Executive Committee for further study.

**Section 2.07** ***Parliamentary Procedure***

(a) The Presiding Officer shall determine all matters of parliamentary procedure, subject to overrule by a simple majority vote, so the Synod may conduct business in as simple and transparent a manner as possible without reference to complex rules of procedure.

(b) A motion may not be considered or debated until it is seconded, and, when seconded, it shall be stated by the Presiding Officer. If required by voice vote, the motion shall be reduced to writing. A question once decided shall not be reconsidered during the same session.

(c) All matters shall be decided by a simple majority unless otherwise provided by canon. Whenever possible a matter shall be decided by the sound of voices for or against it; but the

Presiding Officer may ask for a show of hands, and any Delegate may request a vote by written ballot, in which case the Presiding Officer shall appoint tellers to distribute, collect and count ballots.

(d) The Synod may adopt Rules of Order not inconsistent with these provisions for parliamentary procedure.

**Section 2.08** ***Seating Alternates of Lay Executive Committee Members***

(a) When a lay member of the Synod is elected to the Executive Committee his or her alternate shall be seated as a full member of the Synod. Thereafter the lay Executive Committee member shall be *ex-officio* a member of the Synod.

(b) Each of the following officers shall be *ex-officio* a member of the Synod: the Chancellor, the Registrar, the Secretary and the Treasurer."

**Section 2.09** ***At-Large Members of the Synod***

(a) The Bishop, with the approval of the Executive Committee, may appoint up to as many as four (4) at-large members of the Synod to serve for one (1) years terms.

(b) At-large members may be clergy or laity and shall have the same rights, privileges and limitations as other Delegates, except that at-large members may not be elected to the Executive Committee.

**Section 2.10** ***Participation in Meetings by Electronic Means***

(a) Members of the Synod may participate in a meeting of the Synod through the use of conference telephone or other electronic communications equipment, provided that all members participating in such a meeting can hear one another. Delegates may only participate in this manner if they are assembled at a single location designated by the Deanery in which they reside, or in a single location designated by the Parish of which they are a representative. Participation ina meeting of the Synod pursuant to this Section 2.10 constitutes presence in person at such meeting.

# Canon 3

## *Concerning the Executive Committee*

**Section 3.01** ***Powers of the Executive Committee*** The Executive Committee of the Synod shall be the Board of Directors of the Corporation. The terms Executive Committee and Board of Directors are synonymous in the Diocesan Canons. Subject to any limitations in the articles of incorporation or bylaws of the Corporation, the activities and affairs of the Corporation are to be conducted and all corporate powers shall be exercised by or under direction of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall take care that no provision of the articles of incorporation or bylaws of the Corporation shall conflict with the Constitution or Canons, and any conflict shall be resolved in favor of the Constitution and Canons.

The Executive Committee functions as the Diocesan Standing Committee required by the canons of the Church, being a "committee of counsel to the bishop."

The Executive Committee shall determine the membership of the four (4) member Diocesan delegation to the Provincial Council of the Anglican Church in North America (consisting by Church canon of the Bishop, one clergy person and two lay persons) according to the following methodology: (a) The Bishop is an ex-officio member of the delegation; (b) the President shall be a member of the delegation; and (c) one clergy member and one lay member of the delegation shall be selected by lot from among the members of the Executive Committee who are willing to serve; provided, that following the expiration of their term as Executive Committee members, their term on the Provincial Council delegation shall also end and a new delegate shall be chosen to serve.

The Executive Committee may delegate management of activities of the Diocese to any person or persons, or committee or committees however composed; provided that the activities and affairs of the Corporation shall be managed, and all corporate powers shall be exercised under the ultimate direction of the Executive Committee. However, the Executive Committee may not delegate any of the following responsibilities:

Approval of any matter requiring Board of Directors approval;

Filling a vacancy on the Board of Directors or on any Diocesan Committee;

Fixing the compensation of any Officer or Director or a member of any committee;

Amendment or repeal of bylaws or the adoption of new bylaws;

Amendment or repeal of any resolution of the Board of Directors;

Appointment of committees of the Board of Directors or the members thereof; or

Approval of a self-dealing transaction as defined in the California Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law.

**Section 3.02** ***Diocesan Committees and Task Groups*** Subject to the limitations of Section 3.01 of this Canon 3, the Executive Committee may create Diocesan Committees and Diocesan Task Groups. A Committee or Task Group must be established by resolution of the Executive Committee containing *inter alia the* Committee's or Task Group's job description, its initial Chairperson, its members, and an Executive Committee Monitor. The Chairperson and members of any Committee or Task Group, and their replacements, shall be elected by resolution of the Executive Committee in order to establish accountability to the Executive Committee and the Bishop. Every Committee or Task Group shall have an Executive Committee Monitor, being one member of the Executive Committee who is both the Committee's or Task Group's liaison and responsible to the Executive Committee for oversight of the Committee or Task Group. The Executive Committee Monitor stays in touch with the work, shall be available to attend meetings and keeps the Committee or Task Group mindful of its job description and accountability.

Diocesan Committees are creatures of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may terminate or add Diocesan Committees at any time.

**Section 3.03** ***Number of Directors Including the Bishop and President*** The number of Directors of the Corporation shall be fourteen (14). The Bishop and the President shall be *ex-officio* Directors of this Corporation. Six (6) of the Directors shall be elected from among the clergy members of the Synod. Six (6) of the Directors shall be elected from among the lay members of the Synod.

**Section 3.04** ***Election and Term of Office of Directors Other than the Bishop and President*** Directors (other than the Bishop and the President, whose terms of office shall be coterminous with their service as such) shall be elected at each annual meeting of the Synod. These directors shall take office on December 1 following the Annual Meeting. Each Director, including a Director elected to fill a vacancy, shall hold office until the expiration of the term for which he or she was elected. Directors shall be elected for three-year staggered terms, with no less than one Director elected for a full term at the first regular meeting of the Board of each calendar year. All members of the Synod, whether clergy or laity, shall be entitled to vote for the election of both clergy and lay Directors. In the election of clergy Directors, Delegates shall cast a number of ballots equal to the number of vacancies among clergy members. The candidates receiving the most votes shall be deemed elected. To the extent that there is more than one vacancy, the candidate receiving the second highest number of votes shall be deemed elected, as well as the additional candidates receiving the next highest number of votes as necessary to fill all open clergy Director positions. In the election of lay Directors, Delegates shall cast a number of ballots equal to the number of vacancies among lay Directors. The candidates receiving the most votes shall be deemed elected. To the extent that there is more than one vacancy, the candidate receiving the second highest number of votes shall be deemed elected, as well as the additional candidates receiving the next highest number of votes as necessary to fill all open lay Director positions.

Directors may not be re-elected until one (1) year has passed between the conclusion of their term of service and the commencement of such new term, unless they have served for the completion of a predecessor's term of 24 months or less.

**Section 3.05** ***Resignation and Vacancies*** A vacancy in the Board of Directors shall be deemed to exist upon the resignation, removal or death of a Director or if the authorized number of Directors is increased. The Board may declare vacant the office of a Director who fails to attend three (3) of any five (5) consecutive meetings of the Board, or who has been declared of unsound mind by a final court order, or who has been convicted of a felony, or who has been found by a final order or judgment of any court to have breached any duty arising under the California Corporation Law. No reduction of the authorized number of Directors shall have the effect of removing any Director prior to the expiration of his or her term of office. Vacancies on the Board of Directors may be filled by a majority of the remaining Directors, or if the number of Directors then in office is less than a quorum, by (1) the unanimous written consent of the Directors then in office, (2) the affirmative vote of a majority of the Directors then in office at a properly noticed meeting, or (3) a sole remaining Director. A Director so elected shall hold office for the unexpired term of the Director he or she was elected to replace and until his or her successor has been elected and qualified.

# Canon 4

## *Concerning the Officers*

**Section 4.01** ***Officers*** The officers of the Corporation shall be a Chief Executive Officer, (who shall be the Bishop, with the title of CEO and Co-Chairman of the Board), a President (who shall be a lay person, with the title of President and Co-Chairman), a Secretary, a Registrar, and a Treasurer (whose title shall be Chief Financial Officer). At the discretion of the Board of Directors, the Corporation may have one or more Vice Presidents and one or more Assistant Vice Presidents, Assistant Secretaries, Assistant Registrars, or Assistant Treasurers. There shall be a Chancellery consisting of a Vice President, whose title shall be Chancellor, and one or more Assistant Vice Presidents with the title of Vice Chancellor. Any number of offices may be held by the same person, except that neither the Secretary nor the Chief Financial Officer may serve concurrently as either the President or the Chief Executive Officer. The officers need not be selected from among the members of the Synod.

**Section 4.02** ***Election*** The officers of the Corporation (except the Bishop, who shall serve *ex-officio* as Chief Executive Officer and Co-Chairman of the Board and the President who shall be nominated by the Bishop and elected by two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee) shall be chosen by and serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors, and shall hold their respective offices until their resignation, removal, or other disqualification from service, and until their respective successors are elected and qualified.

**Section 4.03** ***Removal and Resignation*** The Board of Directors may remove any officer with or without cause at any time. Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Chief Executive Officer, the President or the Secretary.

**Section 4.04** ***Vacancies*** A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or any other cause shall be filled in the manner prescribed for regular election or appointment to such office, provided that such vacancies shall be filled as they occur and not on an annual or other periodic basis.

**Section 4.05** ***Secretary*** The Secretary (whose title shall be Secretary) shall keep or cause to be kept, at the principal office of the Corporation or such other place as the Board of Directors may specify, a book of minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors. The minutes shall include the time and place of meetings, whether regular or special, and if special, how authorized, the notice thereof given, the names of those present at the meetings and the proceedings thereof. The Secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept, at the principal office in the State of California the original or a copy of the Corporation's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws as amended to date. The Secretary shall give, or cause to be given, notice of all meetings of the Board of Directors required by law or the Bylaws to be given, shall keep the seal of the Corporation (if applicable) in safe custody, and shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board.

**Section 4.06** ***Registrar*** The Registrar (a Vice President whose title shall be "Registrar"), and any Assistant Vice Presidents who shall be "Assistant Registrars" to assist the Registrar, shall be responsible for maintaining the Registry of the Diocese, which is an electronic compilation and directory of information about the Diocese and its Member Congregations, Mission Startups, Church Plants, Missional Communities and Resource Churches with necessary contact information for the Diocese, House of Delegates, Executive Committee, Diocesan Committees, Task Groups, and Member Congregations. Such roster and database shall be made available to all members of the Synod by appropriate electronic or other means.

**Section 4.07** ***Chief Financial Officer*** The Chief Financial Officer (whose title shall be Treasurer) shall keep and maintain, or cause to be kept and maintained, adequate and correct books and accounts of the properties and business transactions of the Corporation. The books of account shall be open at all reasonable times to inspection by any Director. The Chief Financial Officer shall deposit, or cause to be deposited, all money and other valuables in the name and to the credit of the Corporation with such depositories as may be designated by the Board of Directors. The Chief Financial Officer shall disburse the funds of the Corporation as may be ordered by the Board of Directors, shall render whenever requested by any Director an account of all transactions as Chief Financial Officer, and of the financial condition of the Corporation, and shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board.

**Section 4.08** ***President*** The President of the Diocese, whose title is President and Co-Chairman, is also the Co-Chairman of the Board. The President shall be a lay parishioner of a Member Congregation of the Diocese who has demonstrated previous servant leadership ability as a vestry member, Diocesan Committee member or member/officer of the Executive Committee.

The President's term of office shall be a minimum of two years, renewable for subsequent two-year terms by mutual agreement of both the Bishop and the President, up to a maximum of six years. Each new term is subject to a two-thirds approval vote of the Executive Committee conducted prior to the start of the new term of office.

The principal duties and responsibilities of the President shall include the following:

1. Serve God and His Church and all of the members of the Diocese in humility as a servant leader as modeled by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ;
2. Represent the Diocese as a delegate to the Provincial Council of the Anglican Church of North America;
3. Co-chair and facilitate with the Bishop the Executive Committee Meetings and House of Delegate Meetings and/or chair and facilitate these meetings in the Bishop's absence;
4. Manage the voting process on any matter presented to the Executive Committee requiring approval, in accordance with protocols established in the Diocesan Constitution and Canons;
5. Provide direct oversight of Diocesan temporal activities and affairs related to

administration, finance, regulatory and legal matters affecting the overall management of the Corporation;

6. Oversee the election of new members to the Executive Committee in concert with the Registrar;
7. Together with the Bishop, provide oversight of the activities of Diocesan Committees;
8. Together with the Bishop, develop the meeting agendas for all Executive Committee Meetings and House of Delegate Meetings;
9. Co-chair with the Bishop and one other member of the Executive Committee the Diocesan Membership Subcommittee;
10. Co-chair with the Bishop the Diocesan Strategic Planning Committee;
11. Co-chair with the Treasurer the Diocesan Finance Committee and work with the Committee to prepare the Diocesan annual budget;
12. Prepare for review and approval by the Executive Committee all resolutions calling for repeal, amendment and/or revision of the Diocesan Constitution and Canons and/or By-laws;
13. Any other duties and responsibilities not specifically mentioned here that may be assigned or requested by the Bishop or majority vote of the Executive Committee.

# Title II

# *The Clergy*

## Canon 1

### *Concerning Expectations and Standards for the Clergy*

**Section 1.01** ***Expectations of the Clergy*** Although the responsibility for carrying out the mission of the Church and this Diocese rests with all of its people, the responsibility for the spiritual health of the Church and Diocese rests mainly with the clergy. Therefore, the Canons of the Church are clear regarding its response to persons serving the Church in the ordained ministry, and declare the Church's expectations of the clergy -- deacons, priests, bishops, and archbishop alike. Accordingly, this Diocese expects that candidates for ordination in this Diocese and ministers from other jurisdictions who seek to be received into this Diocese will meet and, as a condition of remaining in office, will continue to meet our standards and requirements of the ordained clergy. The standards and requirements and the responsibilities that all clergy should believe, adhere to, and seek to perform, are based on biblical principles.

> *It is clearly evident to anyone who diligently reads both the Holy Scriptures and ancient Authors, that from the Apostles' time these three Orders of ministry have existed in Christ's Church: Bishops, Priests, and Deacons. From the earliest days of the Church, these Offices*

*were always held in such reverent estimation, that no one might presume to execute any of them, without being first called, tried, and examined, and ascertained to have such qualities as are requisite for the same. Candidates were approved and admitted thereunto by lawful Authority through public Prayer, and the Imposition of Hands.* (ACNA Ordinal)

These standards, requirements and responsibilities are detailed in Sections 1.02 through 1.09 hereof.

**Section 1.02** ***Fundamental Declarations of the Church*** As a diocese of the Anglican Church in North America, being a part of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church of Christ, we believe and confess Jesus Christ to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no one comes to the Father but by Him. Therefore, we subscribe unreservedly to the Fundamental Declarations of the Church contained in the Constitution of the Anglican Church in North America.

It is expected that all candidates for ordination in this Diocese and all ministers from other jurisdictions who seek to join this Diocese will, without reservation or purpose of evasion, by appropriate instrument in writing, subscribe unreservedly to the Fundamental Declarations of the Church and to the standards and responsibilities set forth in Sections 1.03 through 1.09 hereof.

**Section 1.03** ***Upholding the Sanctity of Life*** God, and not man, is the creator of human life. The unjustified taking of life is sinful. Therefore, all clergy of this Diocese are called to promote and respect the sanctity of every human life from conception until natural death.

**Section 1.04** ***Upholding the Sanctity of Christian Marriage and Single Life*** We affirm our Lord's teaching that Holy Matrimony, commonly called a Sacrament (Article 25 and ACNA Catechism 124-125), is a lifelong covenant between one man and one woman, binding both to self-giving love and exclusive fidelity. Jesus Christ teaches that God is the author of marriage from the beginning of time. "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27; cf. Matthew 19:4-6). God's design for marriage has always involved one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24). Marriage is established by God for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord; for mutual joy, and for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; to maintain purity, so that husbands and wives, with all the household of God, might serve as holy and undefiled members of the Body of Christ; and for the upbuilding of Christ's kingdom in family, church, and society, to the praise of his holy Name.

As wholesome examples and patterns to the flock of Christ, all married persons ordained or received as clergy in this Diocese shall be and remain married to their spouse for life, and in accordance with the vows they exchanged in Holy Matrimony. No such persons shall be ordained or received who have divorced and remarried, unless the Bishop, with the consent of the Archbishop, shall have satisfied himself, upon due inquiry, that an exception is appropriately made according to applicable Scriptural principles, particularly Matthew 19 and 1 Corinthians 7.

**Section 1.05** ***Upholding the Gift of Family*** We affirm the family to be one of the greatest blessings God gives us, providing acceptance, sustenance, and nurture and admonition from the Lord. We are called to promote and protect healthy family life. Therefore, all clergy of this Diocese are called to promote and respect the importance of the family in the life of the church, and to seek to fully incorporate those who are without family into the fellowship of the church.

**Section 1.06** ***Compassion for Sinners and Victims*** The Church is called upon to show Christ-like compassion to those who have fallen into sin, encouraging them to repent and receive forgiveness, while offering the ministry of healing to all who suffer physically or emotionally as a result of such sin.

**Section 1.07** ***Basic Fitness for the Ordained Ministry*** The Bishop must take care that he ordain no person, nor admit clergy from another church or jurisdiction, except such as he knows, either by himself or by sufficient testimony, to have been baptized and confirmed, to be sufficiently instructed in Holy Scripture and in the doctrine, discipline and worship of this Church, as defined by the Church, to be empowered by the Holy Spirit, and to be a wholesome example and pattern to the entire flock of Christ in accordance with Holy Scripture, including 1Timothy 3 and Titus 1. In the case of persons who are or have been married, and/or have children, the Bishop shall take care that such persons manage their own family well, for as Holy Scripture attests, "If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?" 1 Timothy 3:5

**Section 1.08** ***Standards of Sexual Morality and Ethics*** Clergy of this Diocese are called to be exemplary in all spheres of morality as a condition of being appointed and remaining in office. In view of the teaching of Holy Scripture, the Lambeth Conference of 1998, and the Jerusalem Declaration, we uphold faithfulness in marriage between a man and a woman in lifelong union, and believe that abstinence is right for those who are not called to marriage. Sexual intercourse should take place only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. Therefore, we cannot legitimize or bless same sex unions or permit clergy who engage in homosexual behavior or any other type of sexual intercourse or sexual behavior outside of marriage between a man and a woman to serve in any form of ministry within the Diocese.

**Section 1.09** ***Educational Standards*** The minimum educational standards for those seeking ordination in this Diocese, and for ordained ministers who seek to be received into this Diocese, shall be:

(a) *The Permanent Diaconate* Satisfactory completion of two-years of college education and completion of seminary work in Anglican studies as prescribed by or satisfactory to the Bishop.

(b) *The Transitional Diaconate* Satisfactory completion of four-years of college education and completion of twenty-four units of seminary work in Anglican studies.

**(c)** *The Presbyterate* Satisfactory completion of four-years of college education and completion of a Master of Divinity program to include twenty-four units in Anglican studies.

The Bishop, in consultation with the Executive Committee, may waive these minimum educational standards, conditionally or unconditionally, on a case-by-case basis as deemed appropriate.

# Canon 2

## *Concerning Ordination and Reception of Ministers*

**Section 2.01** ***Application by and Examination of Persons to be Ordained and Ministers to be Received into this Diocese*** Persons desiring to be ordained in this Diocese, and ministers from other jurisdictions who seek to be received into this Diocese, shall apply in writing to the Bishop through the Ministry Development Process of the Diocese. Applicants shall be provided a copy of this Canon 2 and, should they wish to continue seeking ordination or reception, they shall follow the process established by the Ministry Development Process.

The Ministry Development Process shall include an independent background check ("Background Check") covering the following; the checking of all references and previous employers for the previous ten (10) years, credit reports, the checking of records from Departments of Motor Vehicles, and a complete criminal record check to include the Sexual Predators Directory.
No person shall be ordained or received as clergy in this Diocese until they shall have subscribed in writing without reservation to the following declaration:

> "*I do believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God and to contain all things necessary to salvation; and therefore I hold myself bound to conform my life and ministry thereto, and do solemnly engage to conform to the Doctrine, Discipline and Worship of Christ as this Church has received them.*"

**Section 2.02** ***Ordination of Clergy, Reception from Other Jurisdictions – In General*** The Bishop, being fully satisfied of a person's theological and other qualifications, and soundness in the faith, and upon successful completion of examination, may ordain persons in this Diocese, or receive clergy from other churches or jurisdictions into this Diocese, as provided in this Canon 2. In the case of a person already ordained by a bishop in the Historic Succession, the Bishop may receive such person into this Church and Diocese in the order(s) to which they were ordained. In the case of a person ordained by a bishop or minister not ordained by a bishop in the Historic Succession, the Bishop may ordain the person as a deacon conditionally and, no sooner than four months thereafter, ordain the person a presbyter conditionally (if previously ordained a presbyter), having previously baptized and confirmed the person conditionally if necessary.

**Section 2.03** ***Reception of Bishops of the Church*** The Bishop, being fully satisfied of a person's theological and other qualifications, and soundness in the faith, may receive bishops from other jurisdictions of the Church into this Diocese, with or without examination, to serve as rector of a Member Congregation or as a Bishop in Residence in a Member Congregation, or to serve in a

ministry of this Diocese. A bishop so received shall owe canonical obedience in all things lawful and honest to the Bishop.

**Section 2.04** ***Receiving Ministers from Other Jurisdictions in the Church*** Subject to the examination prescribed by Section 2.01 hereof, the Bishop may accept by letter of transfer a deacon or presbyter who is in good standing in any other jurisdiction of the Church. The Bishop shall inquire of the transferring bishop concerning any past or existing disciplinary matter or other impediment affecting the ministry of the transferring clergy person. The letter of transfer, which must be presented within six months from its date of issue, shall be to the following effect:

*"We hereby certify that the Reverend A. B., who has signified desire to be transferred to the ecclesiastical authority the Diocese of Western Anglicans of the Anglican Church in North America, is a Presbyter (or Deacon) of (Name of Jurisdiction) in good standing. (Signed by the transferring bishop)"*

**Section 2.05** ***Receiving Ministers Ordained in the Historic Succession*** Ministers who are not clergy in a jurisdiction of the Church but who are ordained in the Historic Succession and who desire to be accepted into this Diocese shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the Bishop of eligibility for ordination pursuant to this Diocesan Canon 2 as well as Canons 2 through 4 of Title III of the Canons of the Anglican Church in North America.

Such ministers shall be examined as provided in Canon 2.01 hereof and also on any other subjects the Bishop deems appropriate.

**Section 2.06** ***Receiving Ministers Not Ordained in the Historic Succession or Whose Orders are not Accepted by the Church*** Ministers ordained in a jurisdiction not ordered in the Historic Succession or whose orders are not accepted by the Church who desire to be accepted into this Diocese shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the Bishop of eligibility for ordination pursuant to this Diocesan Canon 2 as well as Canons 2 through 4 of Title III of the Canons of the Anglican Church in North America. Such ministers shall be examined and as provided in Canon 2.01 hereof and also on the points of doctrine, discipline, polity and worship in which the jurisdiction from which they come differs from this Church, and any other subjects the Bishop deems appropriate.

**Section 2.07** ***Canonical Transfer*** A minister received into this Diocese shall not function or be recognized by the Bishop until he or she has been canonically transferred to this Diocese; nor may such a person perform any of the rites or ceremonies of the church, except with the special permission of the Bishop, until he or she shall has been canonically transferred. Rectors shall be domiciled within the Diocese.

**Section 2.08** ***Canonical Obedience*** Any person who has received authority to be a presbyter or deacon in this Diocese owes canonical obedience in all things lawful and honest to the Bishop of this Diocese, just as the Bishops of dioceses of the Church owe canonical obedience in all things lawful and honest to the Archbishop.

**Section 2.09** ***Periodic Background Checks*** Each member of the clergy of this Diocese, deacon and presbyter alike, shall undergo an independent Background Check at least every three (3) years as a condition of remaining in good standing.

**Section 2.10** ***Periodic Background Checks of Bishops*** Each bishop of this Diocese shall undergo an independent Background Check at least every five (5) years or as directed by the College of Bishops.

**Section 2.11** ***Concerning the Making of Honorary Canons*** Since Medieval times the church has recognized highly valued advisors to a bishop as honorary canons of the cathedral or community. In this tradition the Bishop shall have authority to bestow the title *Honorary Canon* on ordained persons and lay persons of this Diocese in recognition of longstanding extraordinary service to the greater Church.

# Canon 3

## *Concerning the Trial Court*

**Section 3.01** ***Trial Court Established*** This Diocese has an inherent right derived from the Church to discipline presbyters and deacons who commit offenses. For this purpose a Trial Court is hereby established to hear presentments against and to try and discipline presbyters and deacons subject to the jurisdiction of the Diocese. However, penalties are to be imposed only insofar as they are essential for repentance, reformation, and ecclesiastical discipline and order. The Trial Court shall consist of seven (7) members appointed by the Bishop, of whom five (5) members shall be clergy persons and two (2) members shall be laypersons.

Each member shall serve for a term of three (3) years and until the completion of any trial in progress. Members may be reappointed by the Bishop for additional terms. Vacancies on the Trial Court may be filled by the Bishop as they occur. The members shall elect one of their number as *Presiding Officer*, and shall appoint a *Recorder* to record their proceedings.

**Section 3.02** ***Canonical Investigator*** The Bishop shall appoint a *Canonical Investigator*, who may be a clergy or lay person, to ascertain the merit of the accusations and make a recommendation to the Bishop as to whether further juridical process should be pursued.

**Section 3.03** ***Trial Counsel*** The Bishop shall appoint a *Trial Counsel*, who may be a clergy or lay person, to draft presentments and present them before the Trial Court.

**Section 3.04** ***Canonical Advisor*** The Bishop shall appoint a *Canonical Advisor,* who shall be knowledgeable in canon law and may be a clergy or lay person, to assist a presbyter or deacon who is the subject of an accusation and their counsel or agent on issues relating to canon law.

**Section 3.05** ***Trial Court Subject to Church Canons*** The Bishop, the Trial Court, the Canonical Investigator, the Trial Counsel and the Canonical Advisor shall be governed by Title IV of the Canons of the Church, excepting those Title IV canons concerning courts established by the Church

or the discipline of bishops. The charges or accusations on which a bishop, presbyter or deacon in the Church may be presented under the Church's Canons are:

Apostasy from the Christian Faith;

Heresy, false doctrine, or schism;

Violation of ordination vows;

Conduct giving cause for scandal or offense, including abuse of ecclesiastical power;

A conviction by a court of competent jurisdiction for felony or other serious offense;

Sexual immorality;

Acceptance of membership in a religious jurisdiction with purpose contrary to that of the Church;

Violation of any provision of the Constitution of the Church;

Disobedience or willful contravention of the Canons of the Church or of the Constitution or Canons of the Diocese;

Habitual neglect of the duties of office;

Habitual neglect of public worship, and the Holy Communion, according to the order and use of the Church;

Willful refusal to follow a lawful Godly Admonition from a Bishop with jurisdiction.

**Section 3.06** ***Trial Court Procedures*** Subject to Section 3.05 hereof, the Trial Court shall establish its own procedures that shall not be contrary to or inconsistent with the relevant Church canons of Section 3.05 hereof, shall acknowledge the presumption of innocence of the accused and the right to representation by counsel, shall be consistent with principles of fairness, due process and natural justice, and shall require expeditious handling consistent with those principles. The standard of proof in the Trial Court shall be by clear and convincing evidence. The affirmative vote of a majority of its members shall be required for any determination by the Trial Court.

# Canon 4

## *Concerning the Election of a Bishop*

**Section 4.01** ***The Process of Electing a Bishop of this Diocese*** Bishops of the Church are chosen by dioceses in conformance with diocesan constitutions and canons that must be consistent with the Constitution and Canons of the Church. The process of choosing a Bishop of this Diocese must be thorough, conducted in the sunlight, and worthy of heartfelt affirmation by the Synod as fulfilling all righteousness.

**Section 4.02** ***The Election*** As the governing body of the Diocese, the Synod is the electing body

in the election of a Bishop. The election of the Bishop of the Diocese, a Bishop Coadjutor, or a Bishop Suffragan shall take place at any Special Meeting of the Synod called for that purpose. A majority of votes cast shall be necessary for election. The Secretary of the Diocese shall immediately forward the name of the person so elected to the College of Bishops of the Province for its consent as provided in Title III, Canon 8, Section 4 of the Provincial Canons. In the event the Bishop-elect is rejected by the College of Bishops, the Bishop or Executive Committee shall promptly call another meeting of the Synod for the purpose of electing a Bishop.

**Section 4.03** ***The Nominating Committee*** There shall be a Nominating Committee of twelve (12) members selected by the Executive Committee from its membership and from the membership of the Synod. Six (6) of the members of the Nominating Committee shall be clergy persons and six (6) of its members shall be lay persons. No more than two (2) of the clergy members and two (2) of the lay members of the Nominating Committee may be members of the Executive Committee. The Chairperson of the Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. The Nominating Committee is accountable to the Synod and shall report to the Synod.

**Section 4.04** ***The Criteria for the Episcopate*** The qualifications for bishop are contained in Title III, Canon 8 of the Church's Canons. To be a suitable candidate for the episcopate, a person must:

Be a person of prayer and strong faith;

Be pious, have good morals and exhibit Godly character;

Have a zeal for souls;

Have demonstrated evidence of the fruit of the Holy Spirit;

Possess the knowledge and gifts, which equip him to fulfill the office;

Be held in good esteem by the faithful;

Be a male Presbyter at least 35 years old;

Have demonstrated the ability to lead and grow the Church;

And have affirmed the Fundamental Declarations of the Diocese (Section 1.02)

A Bishop is called by God and the Church to be a shepherd who feeds the flock entrusted to his care. A Bishop is an overseer of the flock and as such is called to propagate, to teach, and to uphold and defend the faith and order of the Church, willingly and as God wants him to – not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to his care, but being a wholesome example to the entire flock of Christ. These requirements are in addition to the requirements for a deacon and for a Presbyter. By the tradition of Christ's One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, Bishops are consecrated for the whole Church and are successors of the Apostles through the grace of the Holy Spirit given to them. They are chief missionaries and chief pastors, guardians and teachers of doctrine, and administrators of godly discipline and governance.

**Section 4.05** ***The Pool of Candidates*** The Bishop candidate shall be a male presbyter of at least 35 years of age, who possesses the qualities of a bishop specified in Section 4.04 hereof, who has at least 10 years in ordained full time parish ministry, who has not been divorced and remarried, and who is, or has been a, rector of an ACNA congregation, or is currently serving as an ACNA Bishop. A candidate requires the agreement of his vestry, if applicable, to be considered for the episcopate.

**Section 4.06** ***The Work of the Nominating Committee*** The Nominating Committee should qualify, vet and nominate at least two or three candidates for Bishop, and will determine what needs to be accomplished in order to meet the rightful expectations of the Synod. At a minimum, the Nominating Committee will conduct candidate interviews, require written responses to questions, order background investigations, and explore personal references and references other than those given by the candidates. No candidate for bishop will be presented to the Synod before he is fully vetted by the Nominating Committee. The Executive Committee shall designate one of its clergy members, being also a member of the Nominating Committee, as a liaison person; however, although the Executive Committee will be available to answer questions and provide funding and requested resources, it will not supervise the work of the Nominating Committee.

**Section 4.07** ***The Charge to the Nominating Committee***

*Concerning Scriptural Foundation* Members of the Nominating Committee must steep themselves in the knowledge of the necessary moral qualities of a Christian overseer, according to 1Timothy 3 and Titus 1; the principal functions of a bishop as Defender of the Faith, Evangelist and Church Planter, and Pastor to the Pastors; as well as the attributes of a Godly leader, being a man who is Servant, Teachable, Accountable and Repentant.

*Concerning Sunlight* The Nominating Committee must balance the need for confidentiality in vetting candidates, for their protection, with the rightful expectation of the Synod that the process itself will be conducted in the sunlight. The process must be conducted in a manner representative of the Diocese of Western Anglicans broadly, and the members of the Nominating Committee must be prepared to explain the process lucidly and gladly answer questions about their stewardship.

*Concerning Spirituality* Prayer, fasting, and ministering to the Lord attends the selection of leaders. (Acts 1:24 and 13:1-3) The Nominating Committee, and its individual members, should adopt this scriptural model, and appoint intercessors during their time of service.

**Section 4.08** ***Concerning the Election of Bishops*** With the consent of the College of Bishops, the Diocese may commence the process of electing a Bishop. Such election is subject to the approval of the College of Bishops.

# Canon 5

## *Concerning the vacancy of the office of the Bishop*

**Section 5.01** *Incapacity of the Bishop* When a majority of the members of the Executive Committee have significant concern regarding the physical or mental capacity of the Diocesan Bishop to carry out his duties, they shall promptly notify the Archbishop who may appoint a pastoral representative to assist the Executive Committee in addressing the concerns with the Bishop and his family.

If the matter is not resolved and a majority of the Executive Committee believe that the Bishop is no longer able to carry out his duties due to a physical or mental incapacity, the Executive Committee shall notify the Archbishop and ask the Bishop to submit to examination by at least two licensed physicians or psychologists who have a specialty appropriate to the circumstance and who shall render their opinion to the Executive Committee and to the Bishop and his family. One of the physicians or psychologists shall be chosen by the Bishop and one by the Executive Committee.

If, after considering the report of the physicians or psychologists the Executive Committee determines that the Bishop is no longer able to carry out his duties due to a physical or mental incapacity, the Executive Committee may, upon a two-thirds majority vote, ask the Bishop to resign or to take a medical leave of absence. The Executive Committee shall report this matter to the Archbishop, who shall ensure that appropriate pastoral care is provided to the Bishop and his family.

The Bishop shall have the right to appeal within 30 days of receiving written notification of the determination of incapacity by the Executive Committee. Pending the outcome of the appeal, the Bishop shall automatically be placed on paid administrative leave. The appeal shall be to the Provincial Tribunal. The Tribunal shall review all evidence relevant to the appeal, including testimony of witnesses. The Tribunal's decision shall be based on the preponderance of the evidence. A simple majority of the Tribunal shall be necessary to render a decision and the decision shall be final.

If the Bishop refuses to comply with any provision of this canon, the Archbishop may issue a Godly Admonition. If the Bishop refuses to comply with the Archbishop's Godly Admonition, such refusal shall constitute a presentable offense under ACNA's Constitution and Canons, Title IV, Canon 4.2.

If the Office of the Bishop has been vacated, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall be the Bishop Coadjutor, if there be one, or the Executive Committee.

While the Bishop is on medical leave, the Bishop Coadjutor, if there be one, or the Executive Committee shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority until the Archbishop declares either the Bishop has the capacity to resume his duties or unable to do so. If the Archbishop declares the Bishop unable to resume his duties, the Executive Committee may declare the office vacant and the Diocese may proceed to seek the consent of the College of Bishops for the election of a new Bishop pursuant to the Diocese of Western Anglican's Constitution and Canons, Title II, Canon 4, Section 4.01.

# Title II.A

## *Worship and the Administration of the Sacraments*

### Canon 1

#### *Concerning the Standard Book of Common Prayer*

**Section 1.01** ***The Book of Common Prayer of the Province*** The Book of Common Prayer as set forth by the Church of England in 1662, together with the Ordinal attached to the same, are received as a standard for Anglican doctrine and discipline, and, with the Books which preceded it, as the standard for the Anglican tradition of worship. The Book of Common Prayer of the Province shall be the one adopted by the Anglican Church in North America. All authorized Books of Common Prayer of the originating jurisdictions shall be permitted for use in this Church.

# Title III

## *The Laity*

### Canon 1

#### *Concerning Duties and Responsibilities of the Laity*

**Section 1.01** ***The Ministry of the Laity*** The people of God are the chief agents of the mission of the Church to extend the Kingdom of God by so presenting Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit that people will come to put their trust in God through Him, know Him as Savior, and serve Him as Lord in the fellowship of the Church. The effective ministry of the Church is the responsibility of the laity no less than it is the responsibility of the Bishop and the priests and deacons. It is incumbent for every lay member of the Church to become an effective minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ, one who is spiritually qualified, gifted, called, and mature in the faith. This Diocese may by Canon establish standards for the ministry of the laity.

**Section 1.02** ***Specific Duties and Responsibilities of the Laity*** *With the help of God's grace,* it shall be the duty of all laypersons of this Diocese:

1. To worship God, the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit, every Lord's Day in a Church unless reasonably prevented;
2. To engage regularly in the reading and study of Holy Scripture and the Doctrine of the Church as found in Article I of the Constitution of this Church;
3. To pray regularly for their needs and those of others, for the Church and its mission, and for

the concerns of the world;

4. To observe their baptismal vows, to lead an upright and sober life, and not give scandal to the Church;
5. To present their children and those they have led to the Lord for baptism and confirmation;
6. To give regular financial support to the Church, with the biblical tithe as the minimum standard of giving;
7. To practice forgiveness daily according to our Lord's teaching;
8. To receive worthily the Sacrament of Holy Communion as often as reasonable;
9. To observe the feasts and fasts of the Church set forth in the Anglican formularies;
10. To affirm and follow the biblical standards of sexual morality and ethics in Canon II.8;
11. To continue their instruction in the Faith so as to remain an effective minister for the Lord Jesus Christ;
12. To serve their neighbor, sacrificially demonstrating the love of Christ to the poor, the sick, and those in need;
13. To devote themselves to the ministry of Christ and the proclamation of the Gospel among those who do not know Him, utilizing the gifts that the Holy Spirit gives them, for the effective extension of Christ's Kingdom.

**Section 1.03** ***Church Membership*** Membership in the Church requires that a person has received the Sacrament of Baptism with water in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and that such a person be accepted as a member of the Church by a congregation of this Church in compliance with the Constitution of the Church. Such a person is a baptized member of the Church. A confirmed member is a baptized member who has been confirmed or received by a Bishop of the Church.

# Title IV

## *Member Congregations*

### Canon 1

### *Concerning Organization and Governance*

**Section 1.01** ***Organization in General*** A Member Congregation shall be incorporated as a nonprofit corporation, shall apply to the Internal Revenue Service for recognition of exemption from taxation, shall similarly apply for such recognition from the state of incorporation, if appropriate under the laws of that state, shall handle its own monies, and shall be prudently insured with coverage for general liability, officers and directors liability, financial personnel bonding, and fire and other insurance for damage to improved real property. A Member Congregation shall have a sustained Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) of no less than 25 active and contributing members.

**Section 1.02** ***Vestries*** A Member Corporation shall be governed, as to temporalities, by its board of directors, called the Vestry, having no fewer than five (5) elected members. The Rector

shall, *ex-officio,* be a member of the vestry and the Chairman of the vestry. The other vestry members shall be elected by the congregation for three (3) year staggered terms of office. The vestry shall normally meet not less often than monthly. The vestry shall appoint a clerk to record its deliberations and shall maintain proper corporate minutes.

**Section 1.03** ***Wardens*** There shall be two (2) wardens who shall be lay members of the congregation. The Senior Warden (the "Rector's Warden") shall be appointed by the rector from the membership of the vestry to be of counsel and aid to the rector in manner determined by the rector. In the absence of a rector, the Senior Warden may be elected by the congregation to assume responsibilities as the chief executive officer of the corporation. The Junior Warden (the "People's Warden") shall be elected by the vestry from among its members. The Junior Warden shall be a liaison for the congregants.

**Section 1.04** ***The Rector*** The rector, subject to the supervision of the Bishop, shall be the ecclesiastical authority of the congregation and the chief executive officer of its corporation. The rector shall at all times have full access to and control of all of the congregation's buildings and facilities. The rector shall be in charge of the music for services, and shall supervise all services, ritual observances, and ministries of the congregation.

***Section 1.05 Termination of Membership*** The Executive Committee may, by two-thirds vote, end the membership of any congregation. Notice of the intent to end membership of a congregation must be provided by the Bishop with the concurrence of the Executive Committee to the rector, priest in charge, or senior warden of that congregation at least 60 days prior to the vote by the Executive Committee. The Secretary/Clerk of the Diocese shall notify the Congregation within one week of such a decision.

# Canon 2

## *Concerning Pastoral Relationships*

**Section 2.01** ***Calling a Rector*** When a Member Congregation determines to call a rector it shall first consult with the Bishop. Thereafter, the vestry shall work with the Bishop and their Dean following protocol associated with clergy deployment as to process and candidates. The Bishop may approve or, after consultation with the Executive Committee, may reject proposed candidates. If a candidate is rejected the vestry may continue to propose candidates through the above process. In case of continuing difficulty, the Bishop, representatives from the Executive Committee and the vestry shall pray together and meet as often as necessary to resolve differences in a Godly manner pleasing to our Lord.

**Section 2.02** ***Canonical Transfers*** A rector-elect shall not function or be recognized by the Bishop until canonically transferred to this jurisdiction. A rector-elect may not perform any of the rites or ceremonies of the church, except with the special permission of the Bishop, until canonically transferred to this Diocese.

**Section 2.03** ***Ending a Pastoral Relationship*** Should an occasion arise where two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the vestry wish to end its pastoral relationship with the rector, the vestry shall notify the Bishop. The Bishop shall appoint intercessors to cover the matter in prayer. The Bishop shall

meet with the vestry, with the rector being present if the rector wishes, so that the matter may be fully aired and discussed. Thereafter the Bishop shall meet and pray with the vestry and with the rector as many times as he believes necessary to resolve differences to the satisfaction of the parties or to accomplish a termination of the pastoral relationship in a Godly manner. The Bishop, as conciliator and spiritual counselor -- and as the ecclesial authority to whom the vestry and rector are submitted -- shall devote generously of his time and attention so that the matter may be resolved as expeditiously as possible, consistent with Godly process and Scriptural principles.

# Title V

## *Finance*

## Canon 1

### *Concerning the Tithe, Finance and Budget, Transparency, and Accountability*

**Section 1.01** ***The Biblical Tithe*** The biblical and canonical tithe is the minimum standard of giving by this Diocese to support the mission of the Church and shall be taught, and encouraged in our Member Mission Startups, Church Plants, Missional Communities, Congregations and Resource Churches. Member Mission Startups, Church Plants, Missional Communities, Congregations and Resource Churches commit to give ten percent of their operating income to support the cost of Diocesan Mission Development by the promise and providence of God, as Holy Scripture attests, *"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need." Malachi 3:10 ESV*

**Section 1.02** ***Finance and Budget*** The Executive Committee, with the assistance of the appropriate committees, shall develop the program and budget of the Diocese based on the commitments of the Member Congregations and other monies raised. The program and budget shall be adopted by the Executive Committee and presented annually to the Synod for ratification.

**Section 1.03** ***Transparency and Accountability*** Financial responsibility, transparency and accountability are fundamental obligations of this Diocese. The Executive Committee, with professional help, will develop and maintain appropriate standards of financial transparency and accountability to insure the regular, full, accurate and timely disclosure of Diocesan finances to the Synod, to include proper recordkeeping, financial accountability, insurance coverage, and the bonding of the Diocese, and its congregation and missions. The Diocese will provide for an annual independent audit or review of all of its accounts. These standards shall be binding on the Member Congregations to regulate their financial affairs as well.

**Section 1.04** ***Fiscal Year*** The fiscal year of the Corporation shall be the calendar year, or such other annual period as may be fixed from time to time by the Board of Directors.

# Title VI

# *Associated Organizations*

## Canon 1

### *Concerning Missionary Districts*

**Section 1.01** ***Missionary Districts*** On the recommendation of the Bishop, and with the concurrence of the Executive Committee, the Diocese of Western Anglicans may establish a Missionary District.

## Canon 2

### *Concerning Ministry Partners*

**Section 2.01** ***Ministry Partner Qualifications*** A Ministry Partner may be any of a variety of entities such as a seminary, monastic order, ministry organization, congregation, or non ACNA church body, that desires to be in a ministry relationship with this Diocese but cannot or chooses not to be subject to the jurisdiction of the Bishop; provided, that the Ministry Partner shall hold without reservation the belief in One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church and the truth that the Holy Scriptures contain all doctrine necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, and shall sign a statement of faith satisfactory to the Executive Committee.

**Section 2.02** ***The Application Process*** A prospective Ministry Partner may apply in writing to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may either approve the application or agree to the Ministry Partner relationship under terms of an appropriate agreement. The application or agreement shall describe the ministry to be partnered for expanding the Kingdom of God and shall contain an undertaking to work in concert with the Diocese for mutual support in ministry and fellowship.

**Section 2.03** ***Ministry Partner Participation*** Ministry Partners have no financial obligation but are expected to actively participate in at least one of the Diocesan ministries. At the invitation of the Bishop, a Ministry Partner may participate in Diocesan functions and gatherings and may send observers to meetings of the Synod, Executive Committee, or a Diocesan Committee concerned with Missions, Evangelism, Congregational Development, Discipleship, Clergy Development, Theological Education, Clergy Support, Ministry Development, Diocesan Events, or Men's and Women's Ministries. Ministry Partners shall have no vote on any matter before such meetings.

Ministry Partners may request pastoral or clerical assistance from the Diocese when such assistance is not readily available through their own jurisdiction or structure.

Ministry Partners may withdraw from affiliation without cause or have their relationship with the Diocese ended without cause.

## Canon 3

### *Concerning Diocesan Ministry Organizations*

**Section 3.01** ***Diocesan Ministry Organization Status*** From time to time independent ministry organizations may place themselves under the spiritual direction of the Diocese while remaining autonomous organizationally and concerning temporalities. Such a ministry is a *Diocesan Ministry Organization.* A Diocesan Ministry Organization must be separately incorporated, enjoy 501(c)3 tax-free status, handle its own finances, and have general liability and officers and director's liability insurance satisfactory to the Diocese. A Diocesan Ministry must be accepted by the Executive Committee and the Bishop, and may be terminated by them without cause at any time. A Diocesan Ministry may withdraw from relationship with the Diocese at any time without cause.

# Title VII

# *Approval and Amendment of Canons*

## Canon 1

### *Concerning the Adoption, Amendment, and Conflict of Canons*

**Section 1.01** ***Adoption of Canons*** These Canons must be adopted by the Executive Committee subject to approval by the Synod by two-thirds (2/3) of the Delegates present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for the purpose. These Canons shall become effective immediately upon approval by the Synod.

**Section 1.02** ***Amendment of Canons*** These Canons may be amended by the Executive Committee subject to approval by the Synod by two-thirds (2/3) of the Delegates present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for the purpose. Any amendments to these Canons shall not become effective in less than ninety days following that meeting.

***Section 1.03 Conflict with Church Canons*** *In case of any conflict of these Diocesan Canons* with the Constitution or Canons of the Church the later shall take precedence.

## CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY

I, Caren Spilsbury, certify that I am the duly elected, qualified and acting Secretary of the Diocese of Western Anglicans of the Anglican Church in North America, and that the foregoing Constitution and Canons as amended on October 22, 2022 by the Synod of the Diocese are in full force and effect as of as of January 21st, 2023.

Dated: October 22nd, 2022

Caren Spilsbury, Secretary